

February 21, 2017

Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee:

Subject: Keep Shore Line East Funding in the Governor's budget

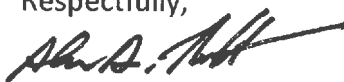
Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I am a resident of the City of New London, a Shore Line East rider and environmental activist who is deeply concerned regarding the state's transportation priorities and potentially a lack of consideration to those of us that will be directly impacted by any shortfalls in this budget.

Keeping the SLE service budget in its current state will allow accessibility for those commuters that's livelihood relies on train service. It gives the public a choice of rail over car. By using rail service, we minimize highway congestion and most importantly decrease vehicle emission pollution such as carbon dioxide. People that drive an automobile from New London to New Haven will use twice as much fuel and generate almost twice as much carbon dioxide. We want the public to ride the rail. It makes economic and environmental ownership sense.

**Some key points to consider:**

1. As a resident of new London who uses weekend SLE services, I want you to consider the fact that New London is now the third busiest weekend train station, behind New Haven and Old Saybrook. When adequate commuter rail is available, it will be used.
2. New London residents, some close friends of mine have personally complained about rail service schedules and the lack of available times when deciding when and when not to take a train. Rail service needs to make sense. When schedules do not make sense and leaves people stranded, ridership decreases and taking the train becomes less attractive. We need to avoid this scenario at all cost.
3. Connecticut is one of the few states where residents can enjoy a high living standard with public transportation to job hubs in Boston, Stamford, New York and New Haven. It's been recognized that the millennial generation are seeking out cities where they don't need to own a car. Connecticut can capitalize on this trend, especially when new generations of the work force are more interested than ever in riding the rail.

Respectfully,



Alma D. Nartatez